

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to child welfare; amending s. 39.013,
3 F.S.; extending court jurisdiction to age 22 for young
4 adults with disabilities in foster care; amending s.
5 39.2015, F.S.; revising requirements of the quarterly
6 report submitted by the critical incident rapid
7 response team advisory committee; amending s. 39.402,
8 F.S.; revising information that the Department of
9 Children and Families is required to inform the court
10 of at shelter hearings; amending s. 39.521, F.S.;
11 revising timelines and distribution requirements for
12 case plans; amending s. 39.522, F.S.; providing
13 conditions under which a child may be returned home
14 with an in-home safety plan; amending s. 39.6011, F.S.;
15 outlining the requirements of a case plan; requiring a
16 case plan to document that an initial assessment has
17 been provided and reasonable efforts have been made to
18 prevent out-of-home placement; providing that a child
19 must be given the opportunity to review, sign, and
20 receive a copy of his or her case plan; providing
21 additional requirements when the child attains a
22 certain age; requiring the case plan to document that
23 each parent has received additional written notices;
24 outlining distribution requirements; amending s.
25 39.6012, F.S.; providing additional requirements for
26 the department and criteria for a case plan, with
27 regard to placement, permanency, education, health

28 care, contact with family, extended family, and fictive
29 kin, and independent living; amending s. 39.6035, F.S.;
30 requiring court approval of a transition plan before
31 the child's 18th birthday; amending s. 39.621, F.S.;
32 creating an exception to the order of preference for
33 permanency goals under ch. 39, F.S., for maintaining
34 and strengthening the placement; authorizing the new
35 permanency goal to be used in specified circumstances;
36 amending s. 39.701, F.S.; revising the information
37 which must be included in a specified written report
38 under certain circumstances; revising what must be
39 found to maintain or return a child to his or her home;
40 creating s. 409.142, F.S.; defining terms; requiring
41 the development and use of an initial assessment for
42 children placed in out-of-home care; requiring every
43 child placed in out-of-home care to be referred within
44 a certain time for a comprehensive assessment;
45 detailing what must be considered in the comprehensive
46 assessment; amending s. 409.145, F.S.; conforming cross
47 references; requiring the department to develop a
48 continuum of care; requiring the department to develop
49 a quality rating system for residential group care;
50 requiring an annual report; requiring notice be given
51 when a child's placement is changed; amending s.
52 409.1451, F.S.; requiring that a child be living in
53 licensed care on or after his or her 18th birthday as a
54 condition for receiving aftercare services; amending s.

55 409.986, F.S.; adding intervention to list of services
 56 to definition of care; amending s. 409.988, F.S.;
 57 requiring lead agencies to ensure the availability of a
 58 full array of services; requiring specified
 59 intervention services; requiring the establishment of
 60 permanency teams for certain children; requiring the
 61 department to adopt rules; amending s. 39.01, F.S.;
 62 revising definition of permanency goal; amending s.
 63 39.202, F.S.; revising the designation of an agency
 64 with access to records; amending s. 1002.3305, F.S.;
 65 conforming cross-references; repealing s. 39.523, F.S.,
 66 relating to the placement of children in residential
 67 group care; repealing s. 409.141, F.S., relating to
 68 equitable reimbursement methodology; repealing s.
 69 409.1676, F.S., relating to comprehensive residential
 70 group care services to children who have extraordinary
 71 needs; repealing s. 409.1677, F.S., relating to model
 72 comprehensive residential services programs; repealing
 73 s. 409.1679, F.S., relating to program requirements and
 74 reimbursement methodology; providing an effective date.

75

76 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

77 Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 39.013, Florida
 78 Statutes, is amended to read:

79 39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

80 (2) The circuit court has exclusive original jurisdiction
 81 of all proceedings under this chapter, of a child voluntarily

82 placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-
83 placing agency, or the department, and of the adoption of
84 children whose parental rights have been terminated under this
85 chapter. Jurisdiction attaches when the initial shelter
86 petition, dependency petition, or termination of parental rights
87 petition, or a petition for an injunction to prevent child abuse
88 issued pursuant to s. 39.504, is filed or when a child is taken
89 into the custody of the department. The circuit court may assume
90 jurisdiction over any such proceeding regardless of whether the
91 child was in the physical custody of both parents, was in the
92 sole legal or physical custody of only one parent, caregiver, or
93 some other person, or was not in the physical or legal custody
94 of any person when the event or condition occurred that brought
95 the child to the attention of the court. When the court obtains
96 jurisdiction of any child who has been found to be dependent,
97 the court shall retain jurisdiction, unless relinquished by its
98 order, until the child reaches 21 years of age, or 22 years of
99 age if the child has a disability, with the following
100 exceptions:

101 (a) If a young adult chooses to leave foster care upon
102 reaching 18 years of age.

103 (b) If a young adult does not meet the eligibility
104 requirements to remain in foster care under s. 39.6251 or
105 chooses to leave care under that section.

106 (c) If a young adult petitions the court at any time before
107 his or her 19th birthday requesting the court's continued
108 jurisdiction, the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction under

109 | this chapter for a period not to exceed 1 year following the
110 | young adult's 18th birthday for the purpose of determining
111 | whether appropriate services that were required to be provided
112 | to the young adult before reaching 18 years of age have been
113 | provided.

114 | (d) If a petition for special immigrant juvenile status and
115 | an application for adjustment of status have been filed on
116 | behalf of a foster child and the petition and application have
117 | not been granted by the time the child reaches 18 years of age,
118 | the court may retain jurisdiction over the dependency case
119 | solely for the purpose of allowing the continued consideration
120 | of the petition and application by federal authorities. Review
121 | hearings for the child shall be set solely for the purpose of
122 | determining the status of the petition and application. The
123 | court's jurisdiction terminates upon the final decision of the
124 | federal authorities. Retention of jurisdiction in this instance
125 | does not affect the services available to a young adult under s.
126 | 409.1451. The court may not retain jurisdiction of the case
127 | after the immigrant child's 22nd birthday.

128 | Section 2. Subsection (11) of section 39.2015, Florida
129 | Statutes, is amended to read:

130 | 39.2015 Critical incident rapid response team.—

131 | (11) The secretary shall appoint an advisory committee
132 | made up of experts in child protection and child welfare,
133 | including the Statewide Medical Director for Child Protection
134 | under the Department of Health, a representative from the
135 | institute established pursuant to s. 1004.615, an expert in

136 organizational management, and an attorney with experience in
137 child welfare, to conduct an independent review of investigative
138 reports from the critical incident rapid response teams and to
139 make recommendations to improve policies and practices related
140 to child protection and child welfare services. The advisory
141 committee shall meet at least once each quarter and shall submit
142 quarterly reports to the secretary. The quarterly reports shall
143 ~~which~~ include findings and recommendations. They shall also
144 describe the implementation status of all recommendations
145 contained within critical incident rapid response team reports
146 and advisory committee reports issued during the previous
147 eighteen months, categorized by the entity to which the
148 recommendation was directed, including the entity's reason for
149 not implementing a recommendation, if applicable. The secretary
150 shall submit each report to the Governor, the President of the
151 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

152 Section 3. Paragraph (f) and (h) of subsection (8) of
153 section 39.402, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

154 39.402 Placement in a shelter.-

155 (8)

156 (f) At the shelter hearing, the department shall inform
157 the court of:

158 1. Any identified current or previous case plans
159 negotiated under this chapter in any judicial circuit ~~district~~
160 with the parents or caregivers ~~under this chapter~~ and problems
161 associated with compliance;

162 2. Any adjudication of the parents or caregivers of

163 delinquency;

164 3. Any past or current injunction for protection from
165 domestic violence; and

166 4. All of the child's places of residence during the prior
167 12 months.

168 (h) The order for placement of a child in shelter care
169 must identify the parties present at the hearing and must
170 contain written findings:

171 1. That placement in shelter care is necessary based on
172 the criteria in subsections (1) and (2).

173 2. That placement in shelter care is in the best interest
174 of the child.

175 3. That continuation of the child in the home is contrary
176 to the welfare of the child because the home situation presents
177 a substantial and immediate danger to the child's physical,
178 mental, or emotional health or safety which cannot be mitigated
179 by the provision of ~~preventive~~ intervention services.

180 4. That based upon the allegations of the petition for
181 placement in shelter care, there is probable cause to believe
182 that the child is dependent or that the court needs additional
183 time, which may not exceed 72 hours, in which to obtain and
184 review documents pertaining to the family in order to
185 appropriately determine the ~~risk to the child~~ level of
186 intrusiveness necessary to ensure the child's safety.

187 5. That the department has made reasonable efforts to
188 prevent or eliminate the need for removal of the child from the
189 home. A finding of reasonable effort by the department to

190 prevent or eliminate the need for removal may be made and the
 191 department is deemed to have made reasonable efforts to prevent
 192 or eliminate the need for removal if:

193 a. The first contact of the department with the family
 194 occurs during an emergency;

195 b. The appraisal of the home situation by the department
 196 indicates that the home situation presents a substantial and
 197 immediate danger to the child's physical, mental, or emotional
 198 health or safety which cannot be mitigated by the provision of
 199 preventive services;

200 c. The child cannot safely remain at home, either because
 201 there are no ~~preventive~~ safety management services, under s.
 202 409.988(3)(c), that can ensure the health and safety of the
 203 child or because, even with appropriate and available services
 204 being provided, the health and safety of the child cannot be
 205 ensured; or

206 d. The parent or legal custodian is alleged to have
 207 committed any of the acts listed as grounds for expedited
 208 termination of parental rights in s. 39.806(1)(f)-(i).

209 6. That the department has made reasonable efforts to keep
 210 siblings together if they are removed and placed in out-of-home
 211 care unless such placement is not in the best interest of each
 212 child. It is preferred that siblings be kept together in a
 213 foster home, if available. Other reasonable efforts shall
 214 include short-term placement in a group home with the ability to
 215 accommodate sibling groups if such a placement is available. The
 216 department shall report to the court its efforts to place

217 | siblings together unless the court finds that such placement is
 218 | not in the best interest of a child or his or her sibling.

219 | 7. That the court notified the parents, relatives that are
 220 | providing out-of-home care for the child, or legal custodians of
 221 | the time, date, and location of the next dependency hearing and
 222 | of the importance of the active participation of the parents,
 223 | relatives that are providing out-of-home care for the child, or
 224 | legal custodians in all proceedings and hearings.

225 | 8. That the court notified the parents or legal custodians
 226 | of their right to counsel to represent them at the shelter
 227 | hearing and at each subsequent hearing or proceeding, and the
 228 | right of the parents to appointed counsel, pursuant to the
 229 | procedures set forth in s. 39.013.

230 | 9. That the court notified relatives who are providing
 231 | out-of-home care for a child as a result of the shelter petition
 232 | being granted that they have the right to attend all subsequent
 233 | hearings, to submit reports to the court, and to speak to the
 234 | court regarding the child, if they so desire.

235 | Section 4. Paragraphs (b) through (f) of subsection (1) of
 236 | section 39.521, Florid Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs
 237 | (c) through (g), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is added, and
 238 | paragraph (a) of that subsection is amended to read:

239 | 39.521 Disposition hearings; powers of disposition.—

240 | (1) A disposition hearing shall be conducted by the court,
 241 | if the court finds that the facts alleged in the petition for
 242 | dependency were proven in the adjudicatory hearing, or if the
 243 | parents or legal custodians have consented to the finding of

244 dependency or admitted the allegations in the petition, have
 245 failed to appear for the arraignment hearing after proper
 246 notice, or have not been located despite a diligent search
 247 having been conducted.

248 (a) A written case plan and a predisposition study prepared
 249 by an authorized agent of the department must be ~~filed~~ approved
 250 by the court. The department or its authorized agent must file
 251 the case plan and pre-disposition study with the court, ~~served~~
 252 serve it upon the parents of the child, ~~provided~~ provide it to
 253 the representative of the guardian ad litem program, if the
 254 program has been appointed, and provided to all other parties:

255 1. not less than 72 hours before the disposition hearing,
 256 if the disposition hearing occurs on or after 60 days after the
 257 child was placed in out-of-home care. All such case plans must
 258 be approved by the court.

259 2. not less than 72 hours before the case plan acceptance
 260 hearing, if the disposition hearing occurs prior to 60 days
 261 after the child was placed in out-of-home care and a case plan
 262 was not submitted pursuant to paragraph (a) or ~~If the court does~~
 263 ~~not approve the case plan at the disposition hearing.~~ The case
 264 plan acceptance hearing must occur within 30 days of the
 265 disposition hearing ~~the court must set a hearing within 30 days~~
 266 ~~after the disposition hearing to review and approve the case~~
 267 ~~plan.~~

268 (b) The court may grant an exception to the requirement
 269 for a predisposition study by separate order or within the
 270 judge's order of disposition upon finding that all the family

271 and child information required by subsection (2) is available in
 272 other documents filed with the court.

273 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 39.522, Florida
 274 Statutes, is amended to read:

275 39.522 Postdisposition change of custody.—The court may
 276 change the temporary legal custody or the conditions of
 277 protective supervision at a postdisposition hearing, without the
 278 necessity of another adjudicatory hearing.

279 (2) In cases where the issue before the court is whether a
 280 child should be reunited with a parent, the court shall
 281 determine whether the circumstances that caused the out-of-home
 282 placement have been remedied ~~parent has substantially complied~~
 283 ~~with the terms of the case plan to the extent that the return of~~
 284 the child to the home with an in-home safety plan will not be
 285 detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and physical,
 286 mental, and emotional health ~~of the child is not endangered by~~
 287 ~~the return of the child to the home.~~

288 Section 6. Section 39.6011, Florida Statutes, is amended
 289 to read:

290 (Substantial rewording of section. See
 291 s. 39.6011, F.S., for present text.)

292 39.6011 Case plan purpose; requirements; procedures.—

293 (1) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—The department shall draft a
 294 case plan that addresses each child receiving services under
 295 this chapter. The case plan must:

296 (a) Document that the initial assessment, pursuant to s.
 297 409.142, has been administered, if appropriate, and an

298 assessment of the service needs of the child and family has been
299 completed, and intervention services, if appropriate, have been
300 provided pursuant to s. 409.988(3), and that reasonable efforts
301 to prevent out-of-home placement have been made.

302 (b) Be developed in a face-to-face conference with the
303 parent of the child, any court-appointed guardian ad litem, the
304 child as provided for in subsection (2), and if appropriate, the
305 temporary custodian of the child and the child's attorney. The
306 parent may receive assistance from any person or social service
307 agency in preparing the case plan. The social service agency,
308 the department, and the court, when applicable, shall inform the
309 parent of the right to receive such assistance, including the
310 right to assistance of counsel.

311 (c) Be written simply and clearly in English and, if
312 English is not the principal language of the child's parent, in
313 the parent's principal language, to the extent practicable.

314 (d) Describe a process for making available to all
315 physical custodians and case managers the information required
316 by s. 39.6012(2) and for ensuring that this information follows
317 the child until permanency has been achieved.

318 (e) Specify the period of time for which the case plan is
319 applicable, which must be as short a period as possible for the
320 parent to comply with the terms of the plan. The case plan's
321 compliance period expires no later than 12 months after the date
322 the child was initially removed from the home, the date the
323 child is adjudicated dependent, or the date the case plan is
324 accepted by the court, whichever occurs first.

325 (f) Be signed by all of the parties. Signing the case plan
326 constitutes an acknowledgment by each of the parties that they
327 have been involved in the development of the case plan and that
328 they are in agreement with the terms and conditions contained in
329 the case plan. The refusal of a parent to sign the case plan
330 does not preclude the court's acceptance of the case plan if it
331 is otherwise acceptable to the court. The department shall
332 explain the provisions of the case plan to all persons involved
333 in its implementation before the signing of the plan.

334 (2) PARTICIPATION BY THE CHILD.— If the child has attained
335 14 years of age or is otherwise of an appropriate age and
336 capacity, the child must:

337 (a) Be included in the face-to-face conference to develop
338 the plan under this section, have the opportunity to express a
339 placement preference, and have the option to choose two members
340 of the case planning team who are not a foster parent or
341 caseworker for the child. An individual selected by a child to
342 be a member of the case planning team may be rejected at any
343 time if there is good cause to believe that the individual would
344 not act in the best interests of the child. One individual
345 selected by a child to be a member of the child's case planning
346 team may be designated to be the child's advisor and, as
347 necessary, advocate, with respect to the application of the
348 reasonable and prudent parent standard to the child. However,
349 the child may not be included in any aspect of the case planning
350 process when information will be revealed or discussed that is
351 of a nature that would best be presented to the child in a more

352 therapeutic setting.

353 (b) Sign the case plan, unless there is reason to waive
354 the child's signature.

355 (c) Receive an explanation of the provisions of the case
356 plan from the department.

357 (d) Be provided a copy of the case plan after the case
358 plan has been agreed upon and signed and within 72 hours before
359 the disposition hearing after jurisdiction attaches and the plan
360 has been filed with the court.

361 (3) NOTICE TO PARENTS.—The case plan must document that
362 each parent has been advised of the following by written notice:

363 (a) That he or she may not be coerced or threatened with
364 the loss of custody or parental rights for failing to admit the
365 abuse, neglect, or abandonment of the child in the case plan.
366 The signing or participation in the development of a case plan
367 is not an admission to any allegation of abuse, abandonment, or
368 neglect and does not constitute consent to a finding of
369 dependency or termination of parental rights.

370 (b) That the department must document a parent's
371 unwillingness or inability to participate in developing a case
372 plan and provide such documentation in writing to the parent
373 when it becomes available for the court record. In such event,
374 the department will prepare a case plan that, to the extent
375 possible, conforms with the requirements of this section. The
376 parent must also be advised that his or her unwillingness or
377 inability to participate in developing a case plan does not
378 preclude the filing of a petition for dependency or for

379 termination of parental rights. If the parent is available, the
380 department shall provide a copy of the case plan to the parent
381 and advise him or her that, at any time before the filing of a
382 petition for termination of parental rights, he or she may enter
383 into a case plan and that he or she may request judicial review
384 of any provision of the case plan with which he or she disagrees
385 at any court hearing set for the child.

386 (c) That his or her failure to substantially comply with
387 the case plan may result in the termination of parental rights,
388 and that a material breach of the case plan may result in the
389 filing of a petition for termination of parental rights before
390 the scheduled completion date.

391 (4) DISTRIBUTION AND FILING WITH THE COURT.—The department
392 shall adhere to the following procedural requirements in
393 developing and distributing a case plan:

394 (a) As soon as reasonably practicable after the case plan
395 has been agreed upon and signed by the parties, an agent of the
396 department must give a copy of the signed case plan to the
397 parties and to other persons, as directed by the court.

398 (b) In each case in which a child has been placed in out-
399 of-home care, the department must prepare and submit a case plan
400 to the court for review and approval within 90 days after the
401 department removes the child from the home or as otherwise
402 required by s. 39.521(1)(a).

403 (c) After jurisdiction attaches, the department must file
404 all case plans with the court and provide a copy to all parties
405 whose whereabouts are known, not less than 72 hours before the

406 disposition hearing unless otherwise required by s.
407 39.521(1)(a). The department shall file with the court and
408 provide copies to all parties any case plans prepared prior to
409 the attachment of the court's jurisdiction.

410 (d) A case plan must be prepared, but need not be
411 submitted to the court, for a child who will be in care for 30
412 days or less unless that child is placed in out-of-home care for
413 a second time within a 12-month period.

414 Section 7. Section 39.6012, Florida Statutes, is amended
415 to read:

416 (Substantial rewording of section. See
417 s. 39.6012, F.S., for present text.)

418 39.6012 Services and parental tasks under the case plan;
419 safety, permanency, and well-being of the child.—The case plan
420 must be based upon an assessment of the circumstances that
421 required intervention by the child welfare system. The case plan
422 must include a description of the identified problem that is
423 being addressed, including the parent's behavior or acts that
424 have resulted in a threat to the safety of the child and the
425 reason for the department's intervention. The case plan must be
426 designed to improve conditions in the child's home to facilitate
427 the child's safe return and ensure proper care of the child, or
428 to facilitate the child's permanent placement. The services
429 offered must be as unobtrusive as possible in the lives of the
430 parent and the child, must focus on clearly defined objectives,
431 and must provide the most timely and efficient path to
432 reunification or permanent placement, given the circumstances of

433 the case and the child's need for safe and proper care.

434 (1) CASE PLAN SERVICES AND TASKS.—

435 (a) Itemization in the case plan.—The case plan must
436 describe each of the tasks which the parent must complete and
437 the services that will be provided to the parent, in the context
438 of the identified problem, including:

439 1. The type of services or treatment which will be
440 provided.

441 2. If the service is being provided by the department or
442 its agent, the date the department will provide each service or
443 referral for service. If a parent's substantial compliance with
444 the case plan requires the department to provide services to the
445 parent or the child and the parent agrees to begin compliance
446 with the case plan before it is accepted by the court, the
447 department shall make appropriate referrals for services which
448 will allow the parent to immediately begin the agreed-upon tasks
449 and services.

450 3. The date by which the parent must complete each task.

451 4. The frequency of services or treatment to be provided,
452 which shall be determined by the professionals providing the
453 services and may be adjusted as needed based on the best
454 professional judgment of the provider.

455 5. The location of the delivery of the services.

456 6. Identification of the staff of the department or the
457 service provider who are responsible for the delivery of
458 services or treatment.

459 7. A description of measurable outcomes, including the

460 timeframes specified for achieving the objectives of the case
461 plan and addressing the identified problem.

462 (b) Meetings with case manager.—The case plan must include
463 a schedule of the minimum number of face-to-face meetings to be
464 held each month between the parent and the case manager to
465 review the progress of the case plan, eliminate barriers to
466 completion of the plan, and resolve conflicts or disagreements.

467 (c) Financial support.—The case plan must specify the
468 parent's responsibility for the financial support of the child,
469 including, but not limited to, health insurance and child
470 support. The case plan must list the costs associated with any
471 services or treatment that the parent and child are expected to
472 receive which are the financial responsibility of the parent.
473 The determination of child support and other financial support
474 must be made independently of any determination of dependency
475 under s. 39.013.

476 (2) SAFETY, PERMANENCY, AND WELL-BEING OF THE CHILD.—The
477 case plan must include all available information that is
478 relevant to the child's care, including a detailed description
479 of the identified needs of the child while in care and a
480 description of the plan for ensuring that the child receives
481 safe and proper care that is appropriate to his or her needs.

482 (a) Placement.— The department must ensure that the
483 child's placement is in the least restrictive and most family-
484 like environment; must review the family assessment, safety
485 plan, and any current case plan for the child to assess the
486 necessity for and the appropriateness of the placement; must

487 assess the progress that has been made toward case plan
 488 outcomes; and must project a likely date by which the child can
 489 be safely reunified or placed for adoption or legal
 490 guardianship. The family assessment must indicate the type of
 491 placement to which the child has been assigned and must document
 492 the following:

493 1. That the child has undergone the initial assessment
 494 pursuant to s. 409.142, if required.

495 2. That the child has been placed in the least restrictive
 496 and most family-like setting available consistent with the best
 497 interest and special needs of the child, and in as close
 498 proximity as possible to the child's home, and if the child is
 499 placed in a setting that is more restrictive than recommended,
 500 the reasons why the placement is in the best interest of the
 501 child and the steps required to place the child in the
 502 recommended placement.

503 (b) Permanency.—If reunifying a child with his or her
 504 family is not possible, the department shall make every effort
 505 to provide other forms of permanency, such as adoption or
 506 guardianship. If a child is placed in an out-of-home placement,
 507 the case plan, in addition to any other requirements imposed by
 508 law or department rule, must include:

509 1. If concurrent planning is being used, a description of
 510 the permanency goal of reunification with the parent or legal
 511 custodian and a description of one of the remaining permanency
 512 goals pursuant to s. 39.621; or, if concurrent case planning is
 513 not being used, an explanation as to why it is not being used.

514 2. If the case plan has as its goal the adoption of the
515 child or his or her placement in another permanent home, a
516 statement of the child's wishes regarding his or her permanent
517 placement plan and an assessment of those stated wishes. The
518 case plan must also include documentation of the steps the
519 agency is taking to find an adoptive family or other permanent
520 living arrangements for the child; to place the child with an
521 adoptive family, an appropriate and willing relative, or a legal
522 guardian; and to finalize the adoption or legal guardianship. At
523 a minimum, the documentation must include child-specific
524 recruitment efforts, such as the use of state, regional, and
525 national adoption exchanges, including electronic exchange
526 systems, after he or she has become legally eligible for
527 adoption.

528 3. If the child has been in out-of-home care for at least
529 12 months and the permanency goal is not adoptive placement, the
530 documentation of the compelling reason for a finding that
531 termination of parental rights is not in the child's best
532 interest.

533 (c) The case plan must describe the role of the foster
534 parents or legal custodians, and must be developed in
535 conjunction with the determination of the services that are to
536 be provided under the case plan to the child, foster parents, or
537 legal custodians.

538 (d) Education.—A case plan must ensure the educational
539 stability of the child while in foster care. To the extent
540 available and accessible, the names and addresses of the child's

541 educational providers, a record of his or her grade level
542 performance, and his or her school record must be attached to
543 the case plan and updated throughout the judicial review
544 process. The case plan must also include documentation that the
545 placement:

546 1. Takes into account the appropriateness of the current
547 educational setting and the proximity to the school in which the
548 child is enrolled at the time of placement.

549 2. Has been coordinated with appropriate local educational
550 agencies to ensure that the child remains in the school in which
551 the child is enrolled at the time of placement, or, if remaining
552 in that school is not in the best interest of the child,
553 assurances by the department and the local education agency to
554 provide immediate and appropriate enrollment in a new school and
555 to provide all of the child's educational records to the new
556 school.

557 (e) Health care.—To the extent that they are available and
558 accessible, the names and addresses of the child's health and
559 behavioral health providers, a record of the child's
560 immunizations, the child's known medical history, including any
561 known health issues, the child's medications, and any other
562 relevant health and behavioral health information must be
563 attached to the case plan and updated throughout the judicial
564 review process.

565 (f) Contact with family, extended family, and fictive kin.
566 When out-of-home placement is made, the case plan must include
567 provisions for the development and maintenance of sibling

568 relationships and visitation, if the child has siblings and is
569 separated from them, a description of the parent's visitation
570 rights and obligations, and a description of any visitation
571 rights with extended family members as defined in s. 751.011. As
572 used in this paragraph, the term "fictive kin" means individuals
573 who are unrelated to the child by either birth or marriage, but
574 who have an emotionally significant relationship with the child
575 that would take on the characteristics of a family relationship.

576 1. As soon as possible after a court order changing the
577 child's placement is entered, information regarding any court-
578 ordered visitation between the child and his or her parents,
579 siblings, and any extended family member or fictive kin as well
580 as the terms and conditions necessary to facilitate such visits
581 and protect the safety of the child must be provided to the
582 child's out-of-home caregiver.

583 (g) Independent living.—When appropriate, the case plan
584 for a child who is 13 years of age or older must include a
585 written description of the life skills services to be provided
586 by the caregiver which will assist the child, consistent with
587 his or her best interests, in preparing for the transition from
588 foster care to independent living. The independent living
589 section of the case plan must be developed with the child and
590 any individuals the child has chosen pursuant to s.
591 39.6011(2)(a), and must include the steps the agency is taking
592 to ensure that the child has a long-term and significant
593 connection with a caring adult.

594 Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 39.6035, Florida

595 Statutes, is amended to read:

596 39.6035 Transition plan.—

597 ~~(4) If a child is planning to leave care upon reaching 18~~
 598 ~~years of age,~~ The transition plan must be approved by the court
 599 before the child's 18th birthday and must be attached to the
 600 case plan and updated before each judicial review ~~child leaves~~
 601 ~~care and the court terminates jurisdiction.~~

602 Section 9. Subsections (2) through (11) of section 39.621,
 603 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (3) through
 604 (12), respectively, subsection (2) is added to that section, and
 605 present subsection (2) is amended, to read:

606 39.621 Permanency determination by the court.—

607 (2) The permanency goal of maintaining and strengthening
 608 the placement with a parent may be used in the following
 609 circumstances:

610 (a) If a child has not been removed from a parent, even if
 611 adjudication of dependency is withheld, the court may leave the
 612 child in the current placement with maintaining and
 613 strengthening the placement as a permanency option.

614 (b) If a child has been removed from a parent and is
 615 placed with the parent from whom the child was not removed, the
 616 court may leave the child in the placement with the parent from
 617 whom the child was not removed with maintaining and
 618 strengthening the placement as a permanency option.

619 (c) If a child has been removed from a parent and is
 620 subsequently reunified with that parent, the court may leave the
 621 child with that parent with maintaining and strengthening the

622 placement as a permanency option.

623 (23) Except as provided in subsection (2), the permanency
 624 goals available under this chapter, listed in order of
 625 preference, are:

626 (a) Reunification;

627 (b) Adoption, if a petition for termination of parental
 628 rights has been or will be filed;

629 (c) Permanent guardianship of a dependent child under s.
 630 39.6221;

631 (d) Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative
 632 under s. 39.6231; or

633 (e) Placement in another planned permanent living
 634 arrangement under s. 39.6241.

635 Section 10. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) of
 636 section 39.701, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

637 39.701 Judicial review.—

638 (2) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS OF
 639 AGE.—

640 (a) Social study report for judicial review.—Before every
 641 judicial review hearing or citizen review panel hearing, the
 642 social service agency shall make an investigation and social
 643 study concerning all pertinent details relating to the child and
 644 shall furnish to the court or citizen review panel a written
 645 report that includes, but is not limited to:

646 1. A description of the type of placement the child is in
 647 at the time of the hearing, including the safety of the child,
 648 ~~and the continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the~~

649 placement, and that the placement is the least restrictive and
650 most family-like setting available that meets the needs of the
651 child as determined by the assessments completed pursuant to s.
652 409.142, or an explanation as to why the placement is not the
653 least restrictive and family-like setting available that meets
654 the needs of the child.

655 2. Documentation of the diligent efforts made by all
656 parties to the case plan to comply with each applicable
657 provision of the plan.

658 3. The amount of fees assessed and collected during the
659 period of time being reported.

660 4. The services provided to the foster family or legal
661 custodian in an effort to address the needs of the child as
662 indicated in the case plan.

663 5. A statement that either:

664 a. The parent, though able to do so, did not comply
665 substantially with the case plan, and the agency
666 recommendations;

667 b. The parent did substantially comply with the case plan;
668 or

669 c. The parent has partially complied with the case plan,
670 with a summary of additional progress needed and the agency
671 recommendations.

672 6. A statement concerning whether the circumstances that
673 caused the out-of-home placement have been remedied to the
674 extent that the return of the child to the home with an in-home
675 safety plan will not be detrimental to the child's safety, well-

676 being, and physical, mental, and emotional health.

677 ~~6~~ 7. A statement from the foster parent or legal custodian
 678 providing any material evidence concerning the return of the
 679 child to the parent or parents.

680 ~~7~~ 8. A statement concerning the frequency, duration, and
 681 results of the parent-child visitation, if any, and the agency
 682 recommendations for an expansion or restriction of future
 683 visitation.

684 ~~8~~ 9. The number of times a child has been removed from his
 685 or her home and placed elsewhere, the number and types of
 686 placements that have occurred, and the reason for the changes in
 687 placement.

688 ~~9~~ 10. The number of times a child's educational placement
 689 has been changed, the number and types of educational placements
 690 which have occurred, and the reason for any change in placement.

691 ~~10~~ 11. If the child has reached 13 years of age but is not
 692 yet 18 years of age, a statement from the caregiver on the
 693 progress the child has made in acquiring independent living
 694 skills.

695 ~~11~~ 12. Copies of all medical, psychological, and
 696 educational records that support the terms of the case plan and
 697 that have been produced concerning the parents or any caregiver
 698 since the last judicial review hearing.

699 ~~12~~ 13. Copies of the child's current health, mental
 700 health, and education records as identified in s. 39.6012.

701 (d) Orders.-

702 1.

703 Based upon the criteria ~~set forth~~ in paragraph (c) and the
704 recommended order of the citizen review panel, if any, the court
705 shall determine whether ~~or not~~ the social service agency shall
706 initiate proceedings to have a child declared a dependent child,
707 return the child to the parent, continue the child in out-of-
708 home care for a specified period of time, or initiate
709 termination of parental rights proceedings for subsequent
710 placement in an adoptive home. Amendments to the case plan must
711 be prepared as prescribed in s. 39.6013. If the court finds that
712 ~~the prevention or reunification efforts of the department will~~
713 ~~allow the child to remain safely at home or be safely returned~~
714 ~~to the home~~ remaining in the home with an in-home safety plan
715 will not be detrimental to the child's safety, well-being, and
716 physical, mental, and emotional health, the court shall allow
717 the child to remain in ~~or return to the home after making a~~
718 ~~specific finding of fact that the reasons for the creation of~~
719 ~~the case plan have been remedied to the extent that the child's~~
720 ~~safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health~~
721 ~~will not be endangered.~~

722 2. The court shall return the child to the custody of the
723 parents at any time it determines that ~~they have substantially~~
724 ~~complied with the case plan, if the court is satisfied that~~
725 ~~reunification will not be detrimental to the child's safety,~~
726 ~~well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional health.~~ the
727 circumstances that caused the out-of-home placement have been
728 remedied to the extent that the return of the child to the home
729 with an in-home safety plan will not be detrimental to the

730 child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional
731 health.

732 3. If, in the opinion of the court, the social service
733 agency has not complied with its obligations as specified in the
734 written case plan, the court may find the social service agency
735 in contempt, shall order the social service agency to submit its
736 plans for compliance with the agreement, and shall require the
737 social service agency to show why the child could not safely be
738 returned to the home of the parents.

739 4. If, at any judicial review, the court finds that the
740 parents have failed to ~~substantially comply with the case plan~~
741 demonstrate behavior change to the degree that further
742 reunification efforts are without merit and not in the best
743 interest of the child, on its own motion, the court may order
744 the filing of a petition for termination of parental rights,
745 whether or not the time period as contained in the case plan for
746 substantial compliance has expired.

747 5. Within 6 months after the date that the child was
748 placed in shelter care, the court shall conduct a judicial
749 review hearing to review the child's permanency goal as
750 identified in the case plan. At the hearing the court shall make
751 findings regarding the likelihood of the child's reunification
752 with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the
753 removal of the child from the home. If the court makes a written
754 finding that it is not likely that the child will be reunified
755 with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the
756 child was removed from the home, the department must file with

757 the court, and serve on all parties, a motion to amend the case
 758 plan under s. 39.6013 and declare that it will use concurrent
 759 planning for the case plan. The department must file the motion
 760 within 10 business days after receiving the written finding of
 761 the court. The department must attach the proposed amended case
 762 plan to the motion. ~~If concurrent planning is already being~~
 763 ~~used, the case plan must document the efforts the department is~~
 764 ~~taking to complete the concurrent goal.~~

765 6. The court may issue a protective order in assistance,
 766 or as a condition, of any other order made under this part. In
 767 addition to the requirements included in the case plan, the
 768 protective order may set forth requirements relating to
 769 reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a specified
 770 period of time by a person or agency who is before the court;
 771 and the order may require any person or agency to make periodic
 772 reports to the court containing such information as the court in
 773 its discretion may prescribe.

774 Section 11. Section 409.142, Florida Statutes, is created
 775 to read:

776 409.142 Assessments and determination of appropriate out-
 777 of-home care placement.--

778 (1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term "Out-
 779 of-home care" means the placement of a child in a licensed or
 780 non-licensed setting, arranged and supervised by the department
 781 or contracted service provider, outside the home of the parent.

782 (2) INITIAL ASSESSMENT.—

783 (a) The department shall develop or adopt one or more

784 statewide initial assessment tools to determine the appropriate
785 placement, the needs of, and initial services to be offered
786 through the continuum of care provided by s. 409.145(2), for all
787 children placed in out-of-home care. The initial screening and
788 assessment tools must be validated, if possible, and must be
789 used by the department and community-based care lead agencies.
790 The department shall consult state and local agencies,
791 organizations, and individuals involved in the child welfare
792 field when developing or adopting initial assessment tools,
793 which shall consider, at a minimum, the following factors:

794 1. The specific behaviors and needs of the child,
795 including, but not limited to, any current behaviors exhibited
796 by the child which interfere with or limit the child's ability
797 to function in less restrictive, family-like settings;

798 2. The level of intervention services necessary to meet
799 the child's specific physical, emotional, psychological,
800 educational, and social needs, including any developmental or
801 other disability;

802 4. Information about previous out-of-home placements,
803 including circumstances necessitating any moves between
804 placements and the recommendations of the former foster families
805 or other caregivers, if available; and

806 3. Information related to the placement of any siblings of
807 the child.

808 (b) The department shall adopt rules that specify the
809 initial assessment tools to be used and provide requirements for
810 their use and for the reporting of data collected through their

811 use.

812 (c) The department and community-based care lead agencies
813 may use additional assessment tools in the course of serving
814 children in the dependency system.

815 (3) COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT.—

816 (a) Within 7 days of being placed in out-of-home care,
817 each child shall be referred by the department for an in-depth
818 and detailed assessment of the child's emotional, social,
819 behavioral, and developmental functioning within the family
820 home, school, and community that must include direct observation
821 of the child in the home, school, and community, as well as in
822 the clinical setting.

823 (b) The comprehensive assessment is intended to supplement
824 the initial assessment and any additional assessments
825 administered under paragraph (2)(c), to guide the creation of
826 case plan tasks pursuant to 39.6012 and treatment and well-being
827 service provision pursuant to s. 409.988(3)(c), for a child in
828 out-of-home care, in addition to providing information to help
829 determine if the child's initial placement was the most
830 appropriate out-of-home care setting for the child. The
831 comprehensive assessment shall measure the strengths and needs
832 of the child and the services and supports that are necessary to
833 maintain the child in the least restrictive out-of-home care
834 setting. The comprehensive assessment must consider all:

835 1. Current and historical health information from any
836 medical evaluation or of any known diagnoses of the child;

837 2. Current and historical behavioral health information

838 from any psychological or other relevant testing or evaluation
839 of the child;

840 3. Current and historical information from any current or
841 former guardian ad litem, if appointed; and

842 4. Current and historical information from any current or
843 former therapist, teacher, or other professional who has
844 knowledge of the child or has worked with the child.

845 (c) Completion of the comprehensive assessment must occur
846 within 60 calendar days of the child entering out-of-home care.

847 (d) Upon receipt of a child's completed comprehensive
848 assessment, the child's case manager shall review the assessment
849 and document whether a less restrictive, more family-like
850 setting for the child is recommended and available. The case
851 manager shall update the case plan to include information from
852 the assessment regarding the identified needs of the child,
853 specified services and supports to meet the needs of the child,
854 and any efforts necessary to transition the child to a less
855 restrictive, family-like setting.

856 Section 12. Subsections (2)through (5) of section 409.145,
857 Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (4)through (7),
858 respectively, paragraph (c) of present subsection (2) is
859 amended, and subsections (2) and (3) are added to that section,
860 to read:

861 409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable
862 and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the
863 department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system
864 of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster

865 care to provide quality parenting, including approving or
866 disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the
867 caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"
868 standard.

869 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF A CONTINUUM OF CARE.--The department,
870 in collaboration with the Florida Institute for Child Welfare,
871 community-based care lead agencies, and stakeholders, shall
872 develop a continuum of care, meaning a complete range of
873 services, programs, and placement options for children served
874 by, or at risk of being served by, the dependency system. To
875 implement the continuum of care, the department shall by
876 December 31, 2017:

877 (a) Establish levels of care which are clearly and
878 concisely defined, with the qualifying criteria for placement
879 for each level identified.

880 (b) Revise licensure standards and rules to reflect the
881 supports and services provided by a placement at each level of
882 care to meet the needs of the children served. Revised standards
883 and rules must include service specifications, ratio and
884 qualifications of staff that are adequate to effectively serve
885 children with the needs the facility seeks to serve, and a well-
886 defined process tied to specific criteria which leads to
887 licensure suspension or revocation.

888 (c) Develop policies and procedures necessary to ensure
889 appropriate level of care and placement determined by the
890 required assessments pursuant to s. 409.142.

891 (d) Collect baseline data on lead agencies' provision of

892 an adequate array of services to address the complex needs of
893 all children and caregivers served within their local system of
894 care with sufficient flexibility to match services to the unique
895 characteristics of families served, such as diminished parental
896 capacities, the ages of the children, cultural considerations,
897 and parental choice.

898 (e) Develop, in collaboration with lead agencies and
899 community stakeholders, a statewide quality rating system for
900 providers of residential group care. This system must promote
901 high quality in services and accommodations by creating
902 measureable minimum quality standards that providers must meet
903 to contract with the lead agencies in domains such as
904 admissions, service planning and treatment planning, living
905 environment, and program and service requirements. The rating
906 system should include:

907 1. Delineated levels of quality that are clearly and
908 concisely defined, including the domains measured and criteria
909 that must be met to be placed in each level;

910 2. Contractual incentives for achieving and maintaining
911 higher levels of quality; and

912 3. A well-defined process for notice, inspection,
913 remediation, appeal, and enforcement.

914 (f) Develop a plan to recruit, train, and retain
915 specialized family foster homes for pregnant and parenting youth
916 in out-of-home care. These family foster homes must be designed
917 to enable young parents to live in the same family foster home
918 with their children while caring for them and working toward

919 independent care of the child.

920 (3) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The department shall submit a
921 report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the
922 Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1 of each
923 year, with the first report due October 1, 2016. The report must
924 include the following:

925 (a) An update on the development of the continuum of care
926 required by this section.

927 (b) A plan for department oversight of the implementation
928 of the continuum by the community-based care lead agencies.

929 (c) An update on baseline data collection on the provision
930 of an adequate service array, and beginning in 2018, shall
931 include an evaluation of the continuum of care and adequacy of
932 the service array by community-based care lead agency, the use
933 of evidence-based services and programs, and the impact of
934 available services on outcomes, such as reunification and
935 permanency for the children served by the lead agencies and any
936 subcontracted providers of lead agencies.

937 (d) An update on the development of a statewide quality
938 rating system for residential group care, and in 2018 and
939 subsequent years, a list of providers meeting minimum quality
940 standards and their quality ratings, the percentage of children
941 placed in residential group care with highly rated providers,
942 and any negative actions taken against contracted providers for
943 not meeting minimum quality standards.

944 (e) A plan for department oversight of the implementation
945 of the statewide quality rating system for residential group

946 care by the community-based lead agencies.

947 (f) An inventory of existing placements for children by
948 community-based care lead agency, the number of children placed
949 by type of setting, the number of children placed more than 50
950 miles from their parents with a list of most common reasons for
951 placement beyond 50 miles from home, and the number of children
952 who had to change schools as a result of a placement decision.

953 (g) An inventory of existing services available by
954 community-based care lead agency and a plan for addressing any
955 identified gaps, as well as a determination of what services are
956 available that can be provided to children in family foster care
957 to address behavioral problems without having to move the child
958 to a more restrictive placement.

959 (h) The strategies being used by community-based care lead
960 agencies to recruit, train, and support an adequate number of
961 families to provide family foster care homes.

962 (24) QUALITY PARENTING.—A child in foster care shall be
963 placed only with a caregiver who has the ability to care for the
964 child, is willing to accept responsibility for providing care,
965 and is willing and able to learn about and be respectful of the
966 child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or
967 psychological needs, any circumstances unique to the child, and
968 family relationships. The department, the community-based care
969 lead agency, and other agencies shall provide such caregiver
970 with all available information necessary to assist the caregiver
971 in determining whether he or she is able to appropriately care
972 for a particular child.

973 (c) Transitions.—

974 1. Once a caregiver accepts the responsibility of caring
 975 for a child, the child will be removed from the home of that
 976 caregiver only if:

977 a. The caregiver is clearly unable to safely or legally
 978 care for the child;

979 b. The child and his or her biological family are
 980 reunified;

981 c. The child is being placed in a legally permanent home
 982 pursuant to the case plan or a court order; or

983 d. The removal is demonstrably in the child's best
 984 interest.

985 2. In the absence of an emergency, if a child leaves the
 986 caregiver's home for a reason provided under subparagraph 1.,
 987 the transition must be accomplished according to a plan that
 988 involves cooperation and sharing of information among all
 989 persons involved, respects the child's developmental stage and
 990 psychological needs, ensures the child has all of his or her
 991 belongings, allows for a gradual transition from the caregiver's
 992 home and, if possible, for continued contact with the caregiver
 993 after the child leaves.

994 3. The department, if possible, must file a written
 995 notification with the court before any change in placement or
 996 living arrangement for a child in out-of-home care. If such
 997 notification is not possible before the change, the department
 998 must file a notification immediately after a change.

999 Section 13. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2), paragraph (a)

1000 of subsection (3), and subsection (4) of section 409.1451,
 1001 Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

1003 (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

1004 (b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as
 1005 follows:

1006 1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care
 1007 and is attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
 1008 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly.

1009 2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
 1010 attending a postsecondary school, as provided in s. 1009.533,
 1011 and continues to reside in a licensed foster home, the amount is
 1012 the established room and board rate for foster parents. This
 1013 takes the place of the payment provided for in s. 409.145(5)~~s.~~
 1014 ~~409.145(4)~~.

1015 3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
 1016 temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for
 1017 purposes of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s.
 1018 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of
 1019 the payment provided for in s. 409.145(5)~~s. 409.145(4)~~.

1020 4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is
 1021 attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533, and
 1022 continues to reside in a licensed group home, the amount is
 1023 negotiated between the community-based care lead agency and the
 1024 licensed group home provider.

1025 5. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but
 1026 temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes

1027 of attending a postsecondary school as provided in s. 1009.533,
 1028 the amount is \$1,256 monthly. This takes the place of a
 1029 negotiated room and board rate.

1030 6. The amount of the award may be disregarded for purposes
 1031 of determining the eligibility for, or the amount of, any other
 1032 federal or federally supported assistance.

1033 7. A young adult is eligible to receive financial
 1034 assistance during the months when enrolled in a postsecondary
 1035 educational institution.

1036 (3) AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

1037 (a) Aftercare services are available to a young adult who
 1038 was living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday, who has
 1039 ~~reached 18 years of age but~~ is not yet 23 years of age, and is:

1040 1. Not in foster care.

1041 2. Temporarily not receiving financial assistance under
 1042 subsection (2) to pursue postsecondary education.

1043 Section 14. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section
 1044 409.986, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1045 409.986 Legislative findings and intent; child protection
 1046 and child welfare outcomes; definitions.—

1047 (3) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this part, except as otherwise
 1048 provided, the term:

1049 (a) "Care" means services of any kind which are designed
 1050 to facilitate a child remaining safely in his or her own home,
 1051 returning safely to his or her own home if he or she is removed
 1052 from the home, or obtaining an alternative permanent home if he
 1053 or she cannot remain at home or be returned home. The term

1054 includes, but is not limited to, prevention, intervention,
 1055 diversion, and related services.

1056 Section 15. Subsection (3) of section 409.988, Florida
 1057 Statutes, is amended to read:

1058 409.988 Lead agency duties; general provisions.—

1059 (3) SERVICES.—

1060 (a) Lead agencies shall ensure the availability of an
 1061 adequate array of services for the continuum of care, as
 1062 developed pursuant to s. 409.145(2), to address the needs of all
 1063 children and caregivers served.

1064 (b) A lead agency must provide dependent children with
 1065 services that are supported by research or that are recognized
 1066 as best practices in the child welfare field. The agency shall
 1067 give priority to the use of services that are evidence-based and
 1068 trauma-informed and may also provide other innovative services,
 1069 including, but not limited to, family-centered and cognitive-
 1070 behavioral interventions designed to mitigate out-of-home
 1071 placements.

1072 (c) Intervention services shall be made available to a
 1073 child and the parent of a child who is unsafe but can, with
 1074 services, remain in his or her home, or a child who is placed
 1075 out-of-home and to the non-maltreating parent or relative or
 1076 non-relative caregivers with whom an unsafe child is placed.

1077 Intervention services and supports include:

1078 1. Safety management services provided to an unsafe child
 1079 as part of a safety plan which immediately and actively protects
 1080 the child from dangerous threats if the parent or other

1081 caregiver cannot, including but not limited to behavior
1082 management, crisis management, social connection, resource
1083 support, and separation;

1084 2. Treatment services provided to a parent or caregiver
1085 that are used to achieve fundamental change in behavioral,
1086 cognitive and emotional functioning associated with the reason
1087 that the child is unsafe, including but not limited to parenting
1088 skills training, support groups, counseling, substance abuse
1089 treatment, mental and behavioral health services, and domestic
1090 violence services;

1091 3. Child well-being services provided to an unsafe child
1092 that address a child's physical, emotional, developmental, and
1093 educational needs, including but not limited to behavioral
1094 health services, substance abuse treatment, tutoring,
1095 counseling, and peer support; and

1096 4. Services provided to non-maltreating parents or
1097 relative or non-relative caregivers to stabilize the child's
1098 placement, including but not limited to transportation,
1099 clothing, household goods, assistance with housing and utility
1100 payments, child care, respite care, and assistance connecting
1101 families with other community-based services.

1102 (d) The department or community-based care lead agency
1103 that places children pursuant to this section shall establish
1104 permanency teams dedicated to overcoming the permanency
1105 challenges presented by children placed in residential group
1106 care. The permanency team shall convene a multidisciplinary
1107 staffing every 180 calendar days, to coincide with the judicial

1108 review, to reassess the appropriateness of the child's current
 1109 placement and services. At a minimum, the staffing shall be
 1110 attended by the community-based care lead agency, the caseworker
 1111 for the child, guardian ad litem, any other agency or provider
 1112 of services to the child, and a representative of the
 1113 residential group care provider. The multidisciplinary staffing
 1114 shall consider, at a minimum, the current level of the child's
 1115 functioning, whether recommended services are being provided
 1116 effectively, any services that would enable transition to a less
 1117 restrictive family-like setting, and diligent search efforts to
 1118 find other permanent living arrangements for the child.

1119 (f) The department may adopt rules to implement this
 1120 section.

1121 Section 16. Subsection (52) of section 39.01, Florida
 1122 Statutes, is amended to read:

1123 39.01 Definitions.—When used in this chapter, unless the
 1124 context otherwise requires:

1125 (52) "Permanency goal" means the living arrangement
 1126 identified for the child to return to or identified as the
 1127 permanent living arrangement of the child. ~~Permanency goals~~
 1128 ~~applicable under this chapter, listed in order of preference,~~
 1129 ~~are:~~

1130 ~~—— (a) Reunification;~~

1131 ~~—— (b) Adoption when a petition for termination of parental~~
 1132 ~~rights has been or will be filed;~~

1133 ~~—— (c) Permanent guardianship of a dependent child under s.~~
 1134 ~~39.6221;~~

1135 ~~—— (d) Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative~~
 1136 ~~under s. 39.6231; or~~

1137 ~~—— (e) Placement in another planned permanent living~~
 1138 ~~arrangement under s. 39.6241.~~ The permanency goal is also the
 1139 case plan goal. If concurrent case planning is being used,
 1140 reunification may be pursued at the same time that another
 1141 permanency goal is pursued.

1142 Section 17. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section
 1143 39.202, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1144 39.202 Confidentiality of reports and records in cases of
 1145 child abuse or neglect.—

1146 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4), access to such
 1147 records, excluding the name of the reporter which shall be
 1148 released only as provided in subsection (5), shall be granted
 1149 only to the following persons, officials, and agencies:

1150 (s) Persons with whom the department is seeking to place
 1151 the child or to whom placement has been granted, including
 1152 foster parents for whom an approved home study has been
 1153 conducted, the designee of a licensed residential child-caring
 1154 agency defined ~~group home described in s. 409.175 s. 39.523~~, an
 1155 approved relative or nonrelative with whom a child is placed
 1156 pursuant to s. 39.402, preadoptive parents for whom a favorable
 1157 preliminary adoptive home study has been conducted, adoptive
 1158 parents, or an adoption entity acting on behalf of preadoptive
 1159 or adoptive parents.

1160 Section 18. Subsection (7) of section 39.6013, Florida
 1161 Statutes, is amended to read:

1162 39.6013 Case plan amendments.—

1163 (7) Amendments must include service interventions that are
 1164 the least intrusive into the life of the parent and child, must
 1165 focus on clearly defined objectives, and must provide the most
 1166 efficient path to quick reunification or permanent placement
 1167 given the circumstances of the case and the child's need for
 1168 safe and proper care. A copy of the amended plan must be
 1169 immediately given to the persons identified in s. 39.6011(5) ~~s.~~
 1170 ~~39.6011(6)(b)~~.

1171 Section 19. Subsection (11) of section 1002.3305, Florida
 1172 Statutes, is amended to read:

1173 1002.3305 College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot
 1174 Program for at-risk students.—

1175 (11) STUDENT HOUSING.—Notwithstanding s. 409.176 ~~ss.~~
 1176 ~~409.1677(3)(d)~~ and ~~409.176~~ or any other provision of law, an
 1177 operator may house and educate dependent, at-risk youth in its
 1178 residential school for the purpose of facilitating the mission
 1179 of the program and encouraging innovative practices.

1180 Section 20. Section 39.523, Florida Statutes, is repealed.

1181 Section 21. Section 409.141, Florida Statutes, is
 1182 repealed.

1183 Section 22. Section 409.1676, Florida Statutes, is
 1184 repealed.

1185 Section 23. Section 409.1677, Florida Statutes, is
 1186 repealed.

1187 Section 24. Section 409.1679, Florida Statutes, is
 1188 repealed.

1189

Section 25. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.